

<p style="text-align: center;">Psychology W274 - Research Methods: Personality and Social Psychology Spring 2002</p>
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and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Blair Hayes
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I am happy to meet with you to go over lecture/textbook material, homework, tests, or to address any questions you have about the class – just stop by during office hours or make an appointment.

Class Meets: Monday/Wednesday
12:40-2:30 pm
B032 Weiss Hall

Prerequisites: In order to take this class, you must have completed Psychology 122: Inferential Methods in Psychology.

Required Textbooks: There are two required texts for this course.

Stangor, C. (1998). *Research methods for the behavioral sciences*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
(ISBN: 0-395-74584)

Rosnow, R. L., & Rosnow, M. (2003). *Writing papers in psychology (6th edition)*. Belmont, CA:Wadsworth.
(ISBN: 0-534-52395)

Course Website: <http://astro.temple.edu/~andykarp/psych274.htm>

Additional readings, handouts, and assignments will be available from the course website.

Why are we here???

The purposes of this class are for you:

- 1) To think critically
 - by reading and critiquing social and personality psychological research
 - by designing studies and collecting data
- 2) To write
 - by obtaining firsthand knowledge about how information is communicated in social and personality psychology
 - by presenting reports of class research projects

For you to get the most out of this class, it is essential that you:

- 1) *Come prepared* for class each week. There is a heavy reading load for this class, but you are expected to have read and understood all of the readings *before* you come to class.
- 2) *Think critically* about the readings and class activities. What are their implications? What questions do they raise? Can you think of cases when things might be different? How can you test alternative interpretations?
- 3) *Actively participate* in the class. You must be an active participant in class and in the research groups.
- 4) Each week, make sure you *understand the objectives* of the class before you walk out of the door.
- 5) *Check your email regularly*. We have to cover much material in a limited amount of classtime. I will regularly email reminders and even additional assignments.

Coursework: The course goals will be met using a combination lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities. You will read and think about methodological issues confronting social and personality psychologists. There will be many readings and assignments designed to help you think critically about all aspects of research design. To make the material covered in class more meaningful, we will design three studies. As a class, we will form hypotheses, design studies to test those hypotheses, collect data , interpret the results, and write a research report based on the findings.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined by the following:

- Project #1 Paper 10%
- Project #2 Paper 15%
- Project #3 Paper 20%
- Assignments 10%
- Quizzes/ Class Participation 10%
- Midterm Exam 15%
- Final Exam 20%

Late Policy: I do not accept late homework assignments. If you do not turn in a homework assignment at the due date, you will receive a zero on that assignment.

For major papers, I am generally accommodating if approached ahead of time regarding extensions. However, I am NOT generous right before (or after) an assignment is due. Unless a prior arrangement has been made, for each day a major paper is late you will lose one letter grade (10% of your grade). For example if your paper receives a 94% but is turned in one day late, you will get a grade of 84% on that paper.

Computer Problems: I expect that everyone will be using a computer to type their papers. I want to warn you of some potential problems with computers.

1. **Computers crash:** Sometimes, for unknown reasons, your computer may crash while you are typing your paper. If this situation happens to you, it may be very unpleasant. To avoid this problem, SAVE YOUR PAPER FREQUENTLY. I recommend saving what you have written after every paragraph. If your computer crashes, you will lose no more than one paragraph of your hard work.
2. **Disks fail:** Occasionally, a floppy disk or hard drive will go bad and you will not be able to retrieve a paper that you have saved. To avoid extra unpleasantness in this situation, each time you stop working on your paper save it in more than one place. If you are working on your own computer, save it on your hard drive AND a disk. If you are working in a computer lab, save your paper on TWO disks. It is always a good idea to *save your work on your server space* (if you do not know how, now is a good time to learn).
3. **Printers do not always work:** Occasionally, the evil demon residing in all printers exerts its powers and the printer will not work. Do not wait until the last minute to print your paper. You will have at least 1 week to complete each of your papers. Plan ahead. Give yourself enough time so that if a printer fails or runs out of ink, you will have time to find another printer.
4. **Email may take time to be delivered:** We are accustomed to email arriving instantly. However, due to internet/network problems, email may take several hours or longer to be delivered. For assignments and information that must be emailed, what matters is when I receive it. If I receive the email after the due date, the assignment will be counted as late, regardless of when you sent the it. You can avoid this problem by not procrastinating and emailing information and assignments well before the deadline.

You have been forewarned. None of these excuses will work if you try to turn your paper in late.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism does not merely consist of the obvious (i.e., submitting a paper that someone else wrote, cheating). Plagiarism occurs whenever sources of *ideas or words* (direct quotes) are not properly cited. See Rosnow & Rosnow, pp 64-66 for an extended discussion on plagiarism and tips on avoiding plagiarism. I will be happy to talk with you if you are unsure about how to properly cite sources. However if you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, I will not hesitate to bring the matter to the college.

Classroom Needs: If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements.

Tentative Course Schedule

Note: All readings and assignments are DUE on the date indicated in the schedule.
Unless otherwise indicated, assignments are due in class

Class Date & Topic	Readings	Assignments
Wednesday Jan 22	Course Introduction	
Monday Jan 27 Psychology as Science	Stangor: Chapter 1	
Wednesday Jan 29 Overview of Research Designs	Articles from Website	HW: Reading Articles
Monday Feb 03 Ethics	Stangor: Chapter 3 Website Articles	HW: Article Abstract
Wednesday Feb 05 Developing a Research Question	Stangor: Chapter 2	
Monday Feb 10 Library Research Writing a Research Report	Stangor: Appendix A R & R: Chapter 1, 2, & 5	
Wednesday Feb 12 Intro to Experiments Project #1 Hypotheses	Stangor: Chapter 10 (166-172)	HW: Project #1 Ideas
Monday Feb 17 Hypothesis Testing <i>Finalize Project #1 Design</i>	Stangor: Chapter 8 Stangor: Chapter 10 (172-174)	
Wednesday Feb 19 Validity, Reliability, and Error Receive Project #1 Materials	Stangor: Chapter 5	
Friday Feb 21 <i>Project #1 Data Due</i>		HW: Email Project #1 Data
Monday Feb 24 Interpreting Research Results <i>Receive Project #1 Data</i>	Stangor: Chapter 10 (179-181)	
Wednesday Feb 26 Internal Validity	Stangor: Chapter 12	
Monday March 03 Exam Review		
Wednesday March 05 Midterm Exam		
Friday March 07 <i>Project #1 Paper Due</i>		HW: Project #1 Paper Due
Monday March 10		Spring Break
Wednesday March 12		No Class

Class Date & Topic	Readings	Assignments
Monday March 17 Correlational Designs	Stangor: Chapter 9	
Wednesday March 19 Measures <i>Project #2 Hypotheses</i>	Stangor: Chapter 4	HW: Project #2 Ideas
Monday March 24 Questionnaire Design <i>Finalize Project #2 Design</i>	Website Article	
Wednesday March 26 Surveys and Sampling Receive Project #2 Questionnaires	Stangor: Chapter 6	
Friday March 28 <i>Project #2 Data Due</i>		HW: Email Project #1 Data
Monday March 31 External Validity <i>Receive Project #2 Data</i>	Stangor: Chapter 13	
Wednesday April 02 Factorial Experiments I	Stangor: Chapter 11	
Monday April 07 Factorial Experiments II	Stangor: Chapter 11	
Wednesday April 09 Quasi-Experimental Designs	Stangor: Chapter 14	HW: Interaction Assignment Due
Monday April 14 Repeated Measures Designs I <i>Project #2 Paper Due</i>	Stangor: Chapter 10 (175-180)	HW: Project #2 Paper Due
Wednesday April 16 Repeated Measures Designs II <i>Design Project #3</i>		HW: Project #3 Ideas
Monday April 21 <i>Finalize Project #3 Design</i>		HW: Complex Experiments Assignment Due
Wednesday April 23 <i>Receive Project #3 Data</i>		
Monday April 28 Naturalistic Designs	Stangor: Chapter 7	
Wednesday April 30 Small N designs		
Monday May 05 Exam Review <i>Project #3 Paper Due</i>		
Friday May 09 (11am)		Final Exam